

### 3-12-2014 Newtonville Area Council Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Newtonville Area Council was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at the Newton Senior Center, 345 Walnut Street.

Members present: Stephen Bart, Jacqueline Freeman, Joy Huber, Marc Kaufman, Wayne Koch, Thomas Kraus, Barbara Perlo, Helene Sroat, Timothy Stone, Alderman Emily Norton, ex-officio, Alderman Susan Albright

Others present: Ernest Loevenstein, Norman Cubell, Sarah Quigley, Bob Kavanagh, Stephen Linsky, Kathleen Kouril Grieser, Anthony Pelligrini, Sarah Ecker

The meeting was called to order by President Huber at 7:04 p.m., at which time a quorum was present.

The minutes from the February 25, 2014 meeting were approved unanimously.

Member Sroat updated the council on a recent meeting regarding the Washington Street Corridor Study being conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization. She said most of the comments during the listening session focused on improving safety. The \$80,000 study should be complete in the fall.

Member Kraus volunteered to attend the Engine 6 meeting about the potential benefits of an Austin Street development.

Members Kraus, Huber and Kauffman volunteered to attend the Board of Alderman hearing on March 25 regarding rescinding the decision of making the Austin St. lot surplus. The council agreed to listen, but not speak formally at the hearing.

Some members questioned whether or not the designation could be undone at this point.

Member Kraus reported that Alderman Marcia Johnson requested the raw data from the council's recent Austin St. survey. He will conduct the searches she requested and remind her that this was not a random sample survey.

Member Stone discussed releasing a statement that highlighted the steps the council has taken so far, with the intention of releasing a similar statement every quarter.

The council discussed a letter it received from resident Sarah Quigley asking for support of her request to add three items to the city's proposed traffic and parking study. After going over the three points as well as a response letter from Director of Transportation Bill Paille, the council agreed to support including the intersections and block from Austin to Lowell Avenue to Highland and from Highland Avenue to Lowell Avenue and Austin in the proposed study. President Huber will send a letter to Director Paille requesting its inclusion.

Member Tim Stone updated the group on Beautiful Newtonville's work on NewtonServes, scheduled for April 27, 2014. He hopes to finish the work started last year on the bus shelter and to raise money for and construct, with the help of Newton North, planters for Washington Street.

President Huber and Vice-President Kauffman discussed their meeting with Transportation Advisory Group head Andrea Downs. Walnut Street improvements will be delayed until 2015, after the new traffic and parking study is complete, but paving will happen this year. The group agreed that it would benefit from a meeting with Bill Paille to discuss transportation issues, including bike lanes, Hubway, Zipcar, the commuter rail and Newton North traffic.

Susan Albright suggested the council send a letter to the state's Secretary of Transportation in support of State Representative Kay Khan's efforts to improve the Commuter Rail train station in Newtonville. The council agreed and President Huber will send a letter.

Resident Anthony Pelligrini, Jr. addressed the council to let them know he is concerned about the location of the marijuana dispensary proposed for Washington Street.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Freeman, Secretary